

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Bähren et al. **GROUP:** 2152
SERIAL NO: 09/892,784 **EXAMINER:** Dohm Chankong
FILING DATE: June 27, 2001
FOR: DATA TELEGRAM FOR TRANSMITTING DATA FORMATTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH AN EXTRANEIOUS STANDARD

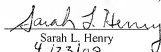
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDED APPEAL BRIEF

This amended appeal brief is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated April 21, 2008. The "Status of the Claims" section now includes a reference to the cancelled claims, the "Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal" section includes all rejections set forth by the Examiner and the "Argument" section includes headings corresponding to the rejections set forth by the Examiner.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted electronically to the Commissioner for Patents via EFS-web, on the date indicated below.


Sarah L. Henry
4/23/08
Date

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

On February 13, 2008, the appellant appealed from the non-final rejection of claims 11, 14-21, and 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 1-10, 12-13 and 22-23 are cancelled. Claims 11, 14-21 and 24-30, which are set forth in Appendix A attached hereto, are all the remaining claims in this application.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 11, 14, 18 and 20 are obvious in view of the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,771,663 to Jha (hereinafter “Jha”).

Whether claims 15 and 16 are obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in Jha and the MOST specification.

Whether claims 17 and 19 are obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in Jha and U.S. Patent 6,172,980 to Flanders (hereinafter “Flanders”).

Whether claims 21, 24-26 and 28-30 are obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in the MOST specification and Jha.

Whether claim 27 is obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in the MOST specification, Jha and Flanders.

VII. ARGUMENT

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – JHA

CLAIM 11

The Official Action recognizes that Jha “*does not expressly disclose that the portion no longer specifies the length of the data associated with the host network standard when the data in the first region of the data section is formatted in accordance with the extraneous standard.*” (Official Action, pg. 8).

The Official Action contends that “[h]owever, this functionality is implied by Jha’s disclosure. Jha discloses that the data in the data section of the telegram may be formatted in accordance with both host or extraneous standards [column 11 <<lines 26-37>>]. Thus, when the data is in accordance with the extraneous standard, the length portion specifies the length of the data of the extraneous standard and not the host standard. Therefore Jha implicitly discloses that the telegram length portion no longer specifies the length of the data associated with the host network standard when the data in the first region of the data section is formatted in accordance with the extraneous standard.” (Official Action, pg. 8).

Upon a fair and proper reading, Jha fails to disclose various features of claim 11, including those recited within the “data section” and the “header section” subparagraphs of claim 11. In particular, Jha fails to disclose a “host network standard” of any type, from which it follows that Jha fails to disclose a number of the “data section” and “header section” features of amended claim 11 (e.g., “*a data section having a pair of regions, a first region in the pair of regions containing data formatted in a first instance in accordance with an extraneous standard that is different than the host network standard, the first region containing data formatted in a second instance in accordance with the host network standard.*”). Thus, the numerous

contentions set forth in the Official Action noted above with respect to a “host network standard” disclosed in Jha are misplaced. Jha fails to teach that the network or system 100 (FIG. 5) contains any single type of “standard”, “host” or otherwise, for the transmission and reception of data over the SONET network. Jha merely discloses that “*one conventional way to transmit data in fiber networks is through a Synchronous Optical Network/Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SONET/SDH) protocol. In a SONET/SDH network, data travels in fixed size envelopes that repeat every 125 microseconds*”. (Col. 1, lines 26-31). Further, “*SONET was designed to efficiently carry telephony Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy (PDH) channels such as T1/T3*.” (Col. 1, lines 35-37). In addition Jha discloses, “*with growing volume in data traffic, however, SONET/SDH networks must now carry a significantly large number of data packets, such as ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode – 53 bytes each) and IP (Internet Protocol – variable-size packets) in addition to traditional T1/T3 channels*.” (Col. 1, lines 49-53). **Thus, Jha itself makes clear that SONET itself is not, or does not include, a “host network standard”.** SONET merely comprises fixed size envelopes that are designed to carry various data types or data standards, including those of fixed length such as T1/T3 and ATM, along with variable length packets such as those associated with IP. SONET is a “carrier” for different data standards and is not a data standard itself. Indeed, Jha admits that SONET is a “data transmission media” and not a network standard for data transmission. (Col. 7, lines 16-30).

Jha recognizes the problems with the SONET network in attempting to transmit both fixed and variable length data types or standards and describes the shortcomings with the various attempts in the prior art to achieve such transmission of “hybrid” data types or standards. (Col. 1, line 57 to Col. 5, line 40). In an attempt to solve these problems, Jha discloses a hybrid data transport (HDT) protocol for use with a SONET network. (Col. 6, line 56 to Col. 7, line 2). The

remainder of Jha's specification discloses the HDT protocol in detail. (Col. 7, line 3 to Col. 14, line 66). All of the various data types disclosed in Jha (e.g., POS, ATM, PDH, etc.) comprise different data standards transmitted within a SONET network. Significantly, nowhere in Jha is there disclosure of a "host network standard". Even the disclosure in col. 11, lines 26-37, along with the accompanying illustration in FIG. 11, fail to disclose or suggest a host standard. Instead, that disclosure determines if either an HDT data frame is presently being transmitted on the SONET network or if one of some other data types (e.g., POS, ATM or PDH) is presently being transmitted on the SONET network.

In light of the foregoing, because Jha fails to disclose a "host network standard", Jha necessarily also fails to disclose a "host network standard" along with an "extraneous standard" in two separate instances, as recited in numerous locations within amended claim 11. Thus, Jha fails to disclose the features of amended claim 11 where the data section and the header section of the data telegram contain information that differs depending on whether the formatting of these two sections is of an extraneous standard in a first instance or of a host network standard in a second instance.

As noted above, the Official Action cites to various locations within Jha for support of the disclosure of the claimed features relating to the "data section" and the "header section". For example, the Official Action cites to FIG. 7 and the accompanying text in col. 7, lines 39-60 of Jha for support, and further contends that "*the host network utilizes a SONET protocol.*" (Official Action, pg. 7). However, this portion of Jha discloses:

"referring to FIG. 7, a detailed block diagram of SONET/SDH payload envelope (SPE) 200 is shown. The present invention may embed a header (and/or footer) 202 (e.g., a 32-bit packet header) to create a deterministic packet transport protocol. The packet header may comprise a 32-bit payload header 204a-204n that may precede each frame, regardless of the particular packet type stored

within the frame. The protocol identification may be implemented as a few header bits configured to denote the particular type of packet (e.g., ATM, IP, PPP, Frame Relay, etc.) embedded within the payload portion of a particular frame. Bandwidth maximization may be implemented with another bit in the header 202 that may specify whether the packet may be reused by the intermediate SONET nodes 102a-102n. The SONET framing may be left unchanged by implementing a single PSL (Path Signal Label) value 206 in a SONET Path Over Head (POH) 208 that is generally able to specify the various types of packets embedded within the payload of a particular frame. The system 100 may be directly applicable to WDM/DWDM Fiber because individual packet framing is independent of SONET. The system 100 may be also used in IP-over-Fiber networks.” (col. 7, lines 39-60).

Nowhere in this portion of Jha is there disclosure of the use of a “host network” of any type, let alone a host network that utilizes a “SONET protocol”, in contrast to the contention in the Official Action. The term “host” is not explicitly found in this passage from Jha, therefore, there is no disclosure or suggestion of any type of host that uses a “SONET protocol”. Instead, this disclosure and the accompanying illustration in FIG. 7 merely disclose how data in accordance with different known types (e.g., ATM, IP, PPP, Frame Relay, etc.) may be stored or embedded within the payload portion of the frame. None of these various types of data are disclosed or suggested in Jha to comprise a “host network standard” data type.

It follows that because Jha fails to disclose a “host network standard”, Jha fails to disclose the features of amended claim 11 where both the data section and the header section of the data telegram contain information that differs depending on whether the formatting of these two sections is of an extraneous standard in a first instance or of a host network standard in a second instance. Jha discloses a SONET network and its typical intended purpose for use with telephony, together with the problems associated with attempts to adapt the SONET network specifically for something other than telephony – i.e., for data transmission purposes. (Col. 1, line 23 to col. 5, line 41).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – JHA IN VIEW OF THE MOST SPECIFICATION

It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot, since claims 15 and 16 each depend directly from amended claim 11, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – JHA IN VIEW OF FLANDERS

It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot, since claims 17 and 19 each depend directly from amended claim 11, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – THE MOST SPECIFICATION IN VIEW OF JHA

CLAIM 21

Upon a fair and proper reading, the combined teachings of Jha and the MOST Spec fails to disclose the features of claim 21 of where the data section and the header section of the data telegram contain information that differs, depending on whether the formatting of these two sections is of the MOST standard in one instance or of an extraneous standard in another instance. Instead, the cited sections of the MOST Spec merely disclose the broad and vague concept that “[a] MOST network can be used in conjunction with a number of different protocols.” (MOST Spec, pg. 12 – Section 2.5) without disclosing any detailed structure or methodology on how this is accomplished. An additional cited section, Section 5, of the MOST Spec further fails to disclose with any specificity to a skilled person how the different protocols are utilized. In fact, as noted above, the Official Action correctly contends that “*the packets of which are transported to the various nodes using the MOST standard.*” A fair and proper

interpretation of this disclosure is that the various protocols are nevertheless formatted according to the MOST Spec and not of some extraneous specification, since they are admitted to be transmitted by the MOST standard.

Further, similar to the discussion above with respect to amended claim 11, upon a fair and proper reading, Jha fails to disclose the feature of amended claim 21 where the data section and the header section of the data telegram contain information that differs depending on whether the formatting of these two sections is of an extraneous standard in a first instance or of a host network standard in a second instance. Jha fails to disclose a “host” data standard of any type, from which it follows that Jha fails to disclose a number of the “data section” and “header section” features of amended claim 21 (e.g., *“a data section having a pair of regions, a first region in the pair of regions containing data formatted in a first instance in accordance with an extraneous standard that is different than the MOST standard, the first region containing data formatted in a second instance in accordance with the MOST standard”*.) Thus, the numerous contentions in the Official Action with respect to a host network standard disclosed in Jha are misplaced. Jha fails to teach that the network or system 100 (FIG. 5) contains any single type of “standard”, “host” or otherwise, for the transmission and reception of data over the SONET network. In contrast, Jha discloses that *“one conventional way to transmit data in fiber networks is through a Synchronous Optical Network/Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SONET/SDH) protocol. In a SONET/SDH network, data travels in fixed size envelopes that repeat every 125 microseconds”*. (Col. 1, lines 26-31). Further, *“SONET was designed to efficiently carry telephony Plesiochronous Digital Hierarchy (PDH) channels such as T1/T3.”* (Col. 1, lines 35-37). In addition, *“with growing volume in data traffic, however, SONET/SDH networks must now carry a significantly large number of data packets, such as ATM (Asynchronous Transfer*

Mode – 53 bytes each) and IP (Internet Protocol – variable-size packets) in addition to traditional T1/T3 channels.” (Col. 1, lines 49-53). Thus, Jha itself makes clear that SONET itself is not, or does not include, a “host network standard”. Instead, SONET merely comprises fixed size envelopes that are designed to carry various data types or data standards, including those of fixed length such as T1/T3 and ATM, along with variable length packets such as those associated with IP. That is, SONET is a “carrier” for different data standards and is not a data standard itself. Indeed, Jha admits that SONET is a “data transmission media” and not a network standard for data transmission. (Col. 7, lines 16-30).

Jha recognizes the problems with the SONET network in attempting to transmit both fixed and variable length data types or standards and describes the shortcomings with the various attempts in the prior art to achieve such transmission of “hybrid” data types or standards. (Col. 1, line 57 to Col. 5, line 40). In an attempt to solve these problems, Jha discloses a hybrid data transport (HDT) protocol for use with a SONET network. (Col. 6, line 56 to Col. 7, line 2). The remainder of Jha’s specification discloses the HDT protocol in detail. (Col. 7, line 3 to Col. 14, line 66). All of the various data types disclosed in Jha (e.g., POS, ATM, PDH, etc.) comprise different data standards transmitted within a SONET network. Importantly, nowhere in Jha is there disclosure of a “host network standard”. Even the disclosure in col. 11, lines 26-37, along with the accompanying illustration in FIG. 11, fail to disclose or suggest a host standard. Instead, that disclosure determines if either an HDT data frame is presently being transmitted on the SONET network or if one of some other data types (e.g., POS, ATM or PDH) is presently being transmitted on the SONET network.

In light of the foregoing, because Jha fails to disclose a “host network standard”, Jha necessarily also fails to disclose a “host network standard” (e.g., a “MOST standard”) along with

an “extraneous standard” in two separate instances, as recited in numerous locations within amended claim 21. Thus, Jha fails to disclose the features of amended claim 21 where the data section and the header section of the data telegram contain information that differs depending on whether the formatting of these two sections is of an extraneous standard in a first instance or of a host network standard in a second instance.

Upon a fair and proper reading of section 6, pgs. 32-35 of the MOST spec, the MOST spec, does not provide any description of the structure of a MOST frame or otherwise, as to how the MOST network can be used, if at all, with different data protocols or standards. The MOST spec at the cited portion of section 6, pgs. 32-35, is utterly devoid of any disclosure or suggestion that different data standards or protocols can be used in a MOST network. In particular, the cited portion of the MOST spec of section 6.5, pg. 33 does not support the contention that the “MOST frame consists of different sections allocated to different standards; one frame may consist of a section allocated to protocols requiring synchronous transport while another section is allocated for protocols that require asynchronous transport.” Whether data are synchronous as opposed to asynchronous has nothing to do whatsoever with the data being of different standards. Section 6.5, pg. 33 of the MOST spec merely illustrates two different sections of a MOST frame – one section containing “synchronous channel time slots” and a second section comprising a “time slot available for asynchronous transport”. Nothing else is disclosed or illustrated there that teaches or suggests that the MSOT frame is concerned with data of different standards. Further, in section 6.7, pg. 34 of the MOST spec there is disclosure that “*the MOST frame consists of 5 sections. ... 60 bytes are reserved for transporting synchronous source data and packet data, 2 bytes are available for control messaging. For dividing up the 60 bytes between synchronous source data and asynchronous data, there is a boundary descriptor value which is transported in*

the administrative sections.” From this description of a MOST frame it is again improper to conclude that the *“MOST frame consists of different sections allocated to different standards”*. This section merely discloses that synchronous and asynchronous data can be accommodated within a MOST frame.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the MOST Spec and Jha are not properly combinable to render amended claim 21 obvious. However, assuming for the moment that the MOST Spec and Jha are properly combinable, without admitting as much, even if the references were combined as alleged in the Official Action, the resultant combination still fails to disclose various features of amended claim 21 discussed above, including, the features of where the data section and the header section of the data telegram contain information that differs depending on whether the formatting of these two sections is of the host network standard in one instance or of an extraneous standard in another instance.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is non-obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in the MOST specification and Jha.

CLAIM 28

Since claim 28 stands rejected for similar reasons as claim 21, the discussion above with respect to claim 21 applies to claim 28. As a result, it is submitted that claim 28 is non-obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in the MOST specification and Jha.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) –THE MOST SPECIFICATION, IN VIEW OF JHA AND
FLANDERS**

It is submitted that this rejection is now moot, since claim 27 depends directly from amended claim 21, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, we submit that the rejection of claims 11, 14-21 and 24-30 is erroneous and reversal thereof is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this amended appeal brief, please charge them to our Deposit Account 50-3381. If a fee is required for any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to the above Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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